



Dakota James

March 7, 1960 - April 26, 2007

Graveside services for Dakota Lloyd "Mark" James, 47, of Hays, Kansas will be held on Wednesday, May 2, 2007 at 3:00 PM at Tyler Memorial Park Cemetery with the Reverend Gene H. DeBerry officiating and under the direction of Stewart Family Funeral Home. Mr. James passed away on Thursday, April 26, 2007 at his home in Kansas. Dakota was born March 7, 1960 in Fort Worth, TX to Tascal James and the late Lloyd Lee James. He grew up in Dallas, attending Hillcrest High School and graduating from San Marcos Baptist Academy. Dakota loved the Lord, loved his family, and held pride in his Native American Heritage. He was a volunteer tour guide and studying to be a docent at the Sternberg Museum of Natural History at Fort Hays State University. His sweet and gentle spirit will be missed by his family and all who knew him. Dakota was preceded in death by his father, Lloyd Lee "Buddy" James, and grandparents Lloyd H. and Martha Lee James. Dakota is survived by his loving family including his son, Kyle James of Florida; mother, Tascal James of Dallas; and sister Jennifer James of Denver and many other loving family members and friends. Honorary Pallbearers will be Tim Allen, Heath Malinak, Brad Miller, Cody Miller, Hunter Miller, and Jeff Thompson. Memorials in honor of Dakota "Mark" James may be made to a Church/Charity of your choice. For more information or to express your condolences to the family please visit www.stewartfamilyfuneral.com.

Tribute Wall

SU

“ In the middle of the tribute that I left, quotation marks turned into question marks on the program. The funeral home cannot edit tributes, but hopefully this explanation will make the text more understandable.

Suzanne - April 26, 2007 at 12:00 AM

DJ

“ Many of you from Texas do not know me - but, Dakota and I were friends for a year before we started dating last July. I wish I could have been at the Funeral to pay my respects, but did not find out until it was too late to attend. However, as all of you do, I love him and wish to express my condolences to his family and friends and to say to those who were a part of making him "Dakota" - My hat is off to all of you. What an incredible person!

He was the most loyal, genuine, intelligent, and wonderful man anyone could ever hope to meet. I admired his conviction. Truly, when he believed in something - his will was unwavering. I always wished that I had that quality - and because of him, I have learned that once you choose what you KNOW in your heart is RIGHT - you must never falter. He never did. And I know that, from him, I learned such a valuable lesson (many, really). Our time together was much too short and it breaks my heart to know that I can not see him (or laugh with him - his sense of humor was delightful, wasn't it?) again in this realm, but that his spirit and the time that we did have together will influence me for the rest of my life. Words cannot express how much we will all miss his caring, giving nature.

Even so, allow me to express profound gratitude to all of the people who influenced Dakota (Mark) and made him the person I was so fortunate to meet. You all did a wonderful job. My nickname for him is "Angel" (not in a mushy way) - because that is how I see/saw him. He is inspirational - and I believe he made everyone who met him, want to be a "better person". He DID make me a better person and I intend to continue in that process - as he would have wanted.

This is something I wrote to him last year...it's mainly for him...but, I believe others who met him felt his "spirit and his essence", too. His moral, ethical and spiritual belief system was grounded in pure integrity - and was unshakable. We all respected him for that. It is a quality that seems to be in shorter supply in this day and age, and when we meet someone like Dakota - who radiates GOODNESS - How can we help but be drawn to him?

-TO DAKOTA-

"I love your spirit and your essence. I believe in you and I believe in us. I believe that you can learn from me not to ?sweat the small stuff?, but to pay attention to the ?little things? (VERY different). And I believe that I can learn from you to slow down and ?smell the roses? and to be more efficient with my time. I like the fact that we were friends first and that a mutual respect was already in place before ?the fireworks? ? yet, I love the fact that there ARE ? fireworks? where I never believed they would be. I want to give you whatever you desire and to be the person who is your ?rock?. I love that you make me believe that you would protect me from anything that would harm me. I love that you and I are alike in our belief that there is no such thing as a ?casual relationship? and that you shouldn?t get into a relationship unless you are willing to see it through ? and that if you make the effort, you honestly believe that it is forever. In my head, and in my heart ? I believe that with you."

Dakota,

"Forever" ended up being such a short time. God needed you more. Now you are his Angel, but you are always WITH us.

*Love Always,
Suzanne*

To Tascal: You were his guiding light. The sun and the moon rose and fell by you, in his world.

To Kyle: He thought of you always, every day. He talked of you every time we spoke and was so excited about the trip this summer. He loved you SO much.

To Jennifer: He thought you were perfect. You and your mother were the ideal that he measured all women by.

To Jeff: To hear Dakota talk - no one in the world had a better best friend than he did. And I believe him.

To Ron and Jarrett: Need I say anything? We know what you meant to him. He only surrounded himself with good people - and you are golden.

To Nick, Summer and Beth: He cared so much about all of you and only wanted the best for you. Co

Dennis Johnson - April 26, 2007 at 12:00 AM

BK

“ I will miss my friend and brother, he could always make me laugh. He was and is a good soul! Here is an Indian prayer for my friend and Indian Brother:

*O'GREAT SPIRIT,
Whose voice I hear in the winds, and whose breath gives life to all
the world, hear me! I am small and weak, I need your strenght and
wisdom.*

*LET ME WALK IN BEAUTY, and make my eyes ever behold the red
and purple sunset.*

*MAKE MY HANDS respect the things you have made and my ears
sharp to hear your voice.*

*MAKE ME WISE so that I may understand the things you have
taught my people.*

*LET ME LEARN the lessons you have hidden in every leaf and
rock.*

*I SEEK STRENGTH, not to be greater than my brother, but to fight
my greatest enemy--myself.*

*MAKE ME ALWAYS READY to come to you with clean hands and
straight eyes.*

*SO WHEN LIFE FADES, as the fading sunset, my spirit may come
to you without shame.*

*SO LONG MY BROTHER AND FRIEND, MAY YOUR JOURNEY
BE BLEST AND FILLED WITH JOY. LOVE YA.....*

Barbara L. Kramer - April 26, 2007 at 12:00 AM

DG

“ I wish to pass my condolences to Dakota's (Mark)family. Mark and I played on the football and soccer team at San Marcos Academy. Though I never saw him again after our school years, I do recall he was an excellent soccer player and good person. I sincerely wish his family the best.

David Garcia - April 26, 2007 at 12:00 AM

RB

“ Dakota will be greatly missed. He taught me a lot about life and myself. When it was my job to be helping him, he was helping me more. Dakota will always have a place in my heart.

Tascal: Dakota loved you more than life itself. He could talk for hours about how great of a mother you are. I know you must be proud of him and his accomplishments. Know he cared for you with all his heart and soul. My condolences. God Bless.

Randee Boggs - April 26, 2007 at 12:00 AM

BM

“ Dakota was a kind and gentle spirit, he will be missed.

Beth Miller - April 26, 2007 at 12:00 AM

SW

“ Mark was always a good friend to all those he was close to.He always knew how to put a smile on my face everytime i saw him, sorry for your loss he will be greatly missed.

Stacy Elmore Wanker - April 26, 2007 at 12:00 AM

DD

“ Please accept my sincerest condolences. I am always saddened when someone dies, Especially so young. Although they are at peace, we still miss them very much. Jesus Wept just before he resurrected Lazarus. What comforts me the most is the promises Jesus made of a resurrection (john 11:25) and of Seeing them again and Living Forever with our loved ones, in Paradise (John 3:16,36; Psalm 37:29) (luke 23:43). What also comforts me is that these promises may also comfort your family as well. “Blessed are those who mourn, since they will be comforted” (math5:40; 2Cor1:3,4).
Dan Danza (dsd2@netzero.com)
disabled combat veteran, USMC

Dan Danza - April 26, 2007 at 12:00 AM

TS

“ Mark and I worked together on several projects in Hays, Kansas and I awlays found him to be interesting and enthusiastic.

I helped him get his name changed to "Dakota", he was very proud of his native american heritage.

His gentlemess and good humor will be sorely missed.

Tom scott - April 26, 2007 at 12:00 AM

BP

“ I wish to express my sincere condolences to Dakota's family. Dakota was one of the most dedicated and helpful museum volunteers that I have ever had the pleasure to work with. His enthusiasm about the museum was contagious and many visitors expressed their thanks for his helpfulness. He had a sincere desire to learn and spent many hours expanding his knowledge about the museum in preparation to formally become a tour guide. We got to know each other well and I enjoyed the visits we would have each morning. He appreciated the beauty in rocks and through his interest, he was able to teach me a lot as well. He will be missed.

Bradley Penka - April 26, 2007 at 12:00 AM

JS

“ May God bless your family during this time of loss.

Johnny Stewart - April 26, 2007 at 12:00 AM